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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/413,785	10/07/1999	STAVROS C. MANOLAGAS	D6156	2424

7590 12/18/2002
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ATLANTA, GA 30303-1763

EXAMINER

FALK, ANNE MARIE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1632

DATE MAILED: 12/18/2002

19

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/413,785	MANOLAGAS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Anne-Marie Falk, Ph.D.	1632	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 October 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4 and 15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

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DETAILED ACTION

The amendment filed October 1, 2002 (Paper No. 19) has been entered. Claims 3, 4, and 15 have been amended. Claims 2, 5, 20, 21, and 24 have been cancelled.

Accordingly, Claims 3, 4, and 15 remain pending in the instant application.

The following rejections are reiterated and constitute the complete set of rejections being applied to the instant application. Rejections and objections not reiterated from the previous office action are hereby withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3, 4, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lane et al. (1995) and Finkelstein et al. (1998), for reasons of record advanced on pages 3-4 of the Office Action of Paper No. 15 (mailed 3/25/02).

The claims are directed to a method of increasing the lifespan of osteoblasts in a bone-containing host in need of preventing bone loss or stimulating bone formation by administering at least 10 µg per kilogram body weight of parathyroid hormone fragment (1-34).

At page 3 of the response, Applicants argue that one of ordinary skill in the art would not find it obvious based on the teachings of Lane and Finkelstein that administration of PTH to animals or humans that are also being treated with glucocorticoids would prevent bone loss or stimulate bone formation. Applicants assert that they have made the surprising discovery that PTH prevents glucocorticoid-induced

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apoptosis of osteoblastic and osteoclastic cells. Applicants further assert that they discovered that prevention of osteoblast apoptosis is the principal mechanism for the anabolic effects of PTH on bone, and that prior to this, the mechanism of action of PTH was unknown. However, elucidation of a mechanism of action does not render a known process patentable. The fact remains that the combined disclosures of Lane et al. and Finkelstein et al. would lead one of skill in the art to use the method of PTH administration described therein in any situation that results in bone loss or otherwise necessitates stimulation of bone formation, including patients experiencing adverse bone effects as a result of contact with a glucocorticoid. One of skill in the art would have anticipated a reasonable expectation of success in using the methods of Lane et al. and Finkelstein et al. in other situations because there is nothing in their disclosures to suggest that the method would not work in other situations where stimulation of bone formation is desired. Thus, one of skill in the art would have expected that the effects observed in osteopenic rats and humans (*i.e.*, increased bone mass and increased bone volume) would have also been observed in a variety of circumstances where increased bone mass is desired, and one of skill in the art would have been motivated to extend this finding to other situations where bone formation is desired.

Thus, the rejection is maintained.

Conclusion

No claims are allowable.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH**

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shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anne-Marie Falk whose telephone number is (703) 306-9155. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday and alternate Fridays from 10:00 AM to 7:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Deborah Reynolds, can be reached on (703) 305-4051. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-4242.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the patent analyst, Tiffany Tabb, whose telephone number is (703) 305-1238.

Anne-Marie Falk, Ph.D.

Anne-Marie Falk
ANNE-MARIE BAKER
PATENT EXAMINER